

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/982,638

Examiner

Kamini S. Shah

Applicant(s)

NISHIMURA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview with applicant's attorney on 8/8/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6 and 10-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


KAMINI SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Koda H on August 8, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A network service wherein:

a service provider provides to a user whose user eligibility has been confirmed in advance a user identification file that can be installed in a client computer that said user is using, and

upon an access request from said client computer, said service provider checks in a browser screen whether there is a user identification file residing in said client computer, wherein

a specific service is provided only to access requests from a client computer on which a user identification file is confirmed to be present,

said service provider installs said user identification file on one or plurality of computer owned by said user, and

said confirmation of user eligibility is conducted when said user identification file is installed by said service provider, and

said user eligibility is confirmed upon agreement of a service use contract between said service provider and said user, and said service use contract is agency contract.

Claim 2 (original). The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said user identification file has no effects on existing programs on said client computer when installed, said user identification file being equipped with computer identification symbols that allow confirmation of existence of said user identification tile in said browser screen.

Claim 3 (original). The network service according to Claim 2, wherein said computer identification symbols are comprised of an array of a plurality of ASCII characters.

Claim 4 (original). The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said service provider provides said user with said user identification file stored on a magnetic medium.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (original). The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said user installs said user identification tile on one or a plurality of computers that said user owns.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (original). The network service according to Claim 4, wherein provision of said magnetic medium to said user is conducted by an ordinary means of delivery, and said user eligibility is confirmed upon completion of delivery to said user of said magnetic medium.

Claim 11 (original). The network service according to Claim 4, wherein said service provider provides said magnetic medium and confirms said user eligibility by visiting said user.

Claim 12 (original). The network service according to Claim 1, wherein said service provider provides user identification files having the same content therein to all users or a plurality of users to whom said service provider intends to authorize access rights.

Claim 13 (original). The network service according to Claim 1, wherein entry of user information that includes no confidential information unique to a user is requested as a condition for logging into a user-only screen for use of a specific service.

Claim 14 (original). The network service according to Claim 13, wherein said user information is a user ID and/or password provided by said service provider.

Claim 15 (original). The network service according to Claim 13, wherein confirmation of presence of computer identification symbols is initiated upon operation of logging into a user-only screen from an entry screen of said user information.

Claim 16 (original). The network service according to Claim 13, wherein only when presence of computer identification symbols is confirmed, an entered user information is compared with user information stored in a database and then

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correspondence of said user information is confirmed, thus allowing login to said user-only screen from said entry screen of said authentication information.

Claim 17 (original). The network service according to claim 1, wherein information in said user identification file is held in cookie, and information held in said cookie is erased when connection to said network terminates.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior art does not teach a network service wherein said confirmation of user eligibility is conducted when said user identification file is installed by said service provider, and said user eligibility is confirmed upon agreement of a service use contract between said service provider and said user, and said contract is agency contract.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamini S. Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-2279. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B. Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kamini S Shah
Primary Examiner
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KSS